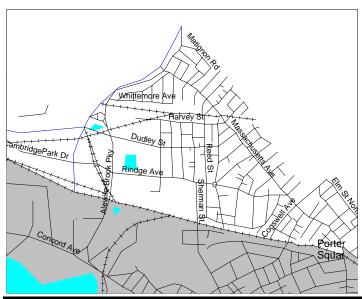
# Neighborhood 11 NORTH CAMBRIDGE





**BOUNDARIES:** bordered by the Belmont line, the Arlington Line, the Somerville Line, Porter Square, and the B&M Railroad

**POPULATION:** 10,642 residents

4,699 households

## AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

\$31,516

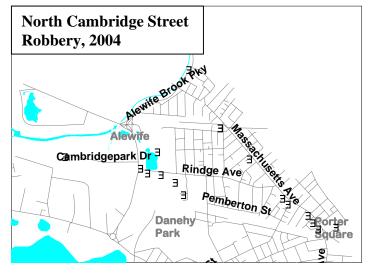
Neighborhood #11 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 11R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D.

# COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2000 - 2004

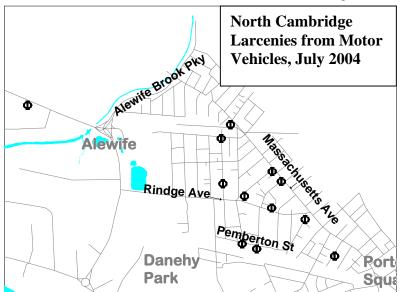
CRIME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Housebreaks	34	59	50	70	49
Street Robbery	9	10	12	27	18
Auto Theft	36	59	45	32	41
Larceny from MVs	43	76	61	63	60
Malicious Destruction	106	111	111	106	77
Drugs	11	11	10	7	15

# 2004 YEAR END REVIEW

• There were no reported **street robberies** in North Cambridge in the first two months of the year. Multiple incidents were reported in the area of the Rindge Towers, but the majority of these incidents were of a non-random nature, and the victim knew the perpetrator. Temporally, many of the North Cambridge robberies took place during the late evening hours on Friday and Saturday. During the month of October, there was an unusual peak in robberies. Only two incidents were conclusively related. They took place near the border of Somerville, when one victim witnessed another being robbed, the suspects turned around and attempted to rob the witness as well.



- Increased patrol vigilance resulted in a higher rate of **drug** arrests in North Cambridge. A majority of these arrests involved perpetrators being observed smoking marijuana in parks and in their cars. Special Investigations made several arrests involving the sale of narcotics. Four of the reported incidents involved the possession of crack cocaine or paraphernalia and one heroin possession.
- Of these target crimes, **malicious destruction of property** experienced the greatest decline in this neighborhood. Three of the reported incidents were attempted automobile larcenies, in which damage was caused to the vehicle, but nothing was removed from it. Cars were targeted in over 64% of the vandalism incidents. A rash of tire slashings was reported on Dudley Street the first day of the year. No other incident of that nature was reported after May. A significant number of incidents were reported on Rindge Avenue, where the density of vehicles in the Tower's lots and the many residences make easy targets. As is common throughout the city, the highest rate of incidents was reported in the summer months.
- The highest number of **auto thefts** were in April and August. There was no discernable pattern to those incidents. Over seventy percent of the stolen cars were recovered by year's end. Although the theft of Honda's is common throughout the city all year, this was not the case in North Cambridge, as Honda's were targeted mostly after the first nine months of the year.
- The number of **housebreaks** in North Cambridge decreased by 30% in comparison to 2003. No



significant pattern was detected in this neighborhood. The burglaries were dispersed evenly throughout the week, but the majority occurred between 12PM to 5PM. This is common, as most people are away from their residences during the daytime.

• July was the hottest month for larceny from motor vehicle. During that month period, multiple incidents were reported on Pemberton Street. Overall, the trend at that time was entry through broken windows and the theft of stereos. Throughout the year, areas of

multiple incidents included the parking lots on Rindge Avenue and Concord Turnpike and along Harvey Street.

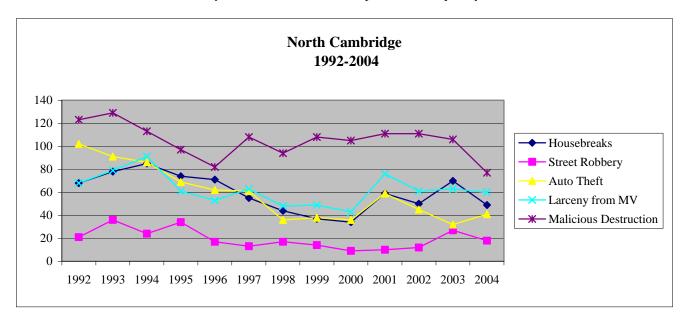
ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR NORTH CAMBRIDGE AREA TARGET CRIMES							
Crime	1981-1990	Rank '81-'90*	1992-2003	Rank '92-'03*	Rank 2004*		
Housebreaks	100	6	60	3	6		
Street Robbery	30	5	20	3	4		
Auto Theft	130	5	60	4	6		
Larceny from MVs	105	6	63	5	7		
Malicious Destruction	125	4	107	3	5		

<sup>\*</sup>Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

North Cambridge has the third highest population in the city. Its residences include a public housing development (Jefferson Park/Jackson Place) and the towering Fresh Pond Apartments. Within its confines are three major public parks (Rindge Field, Russell Field, and Linear Park), the bustling Porter Square, and the Alewife MBTA Station. Dozens of commercial establishments line Massachusetts Avenue. As with Mid-Cambridge, its elevated crime rate reflects its high residential and commercial population.

- Housebreak patterns tend to occur during the summer months. Incidents are scattered quite liberally throughout
  the neighborhood's residential population. Each year, the Crime Analysis Unit identifies two or three North
  Cambridge residential burglary patterns. North Cambridge's housebreak totals have decreased since the 1980s,
  but did not really start rolling downward until 1996.
- Street robberies have traditionally been problematic in Russell Field, Linear Park, and around the Alewife MBTA Station. In the most common scenario, local (Cambridge or Somerville) youths will form packs and strong-arm victims walking in these areas late at night. The packs may brandish knives or the occasional handgun. This type of crime has diminished greatly, however, in the past three years.
- **Auto theft** strikes Rindge Avenue (and particularly the Fresh Pond Apartments) in heavy numbers all year round. The related crime of **larceny from motor vehicles** is reported less frequently.



#### 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

A major housebreak pattern in the Matignon area of North Cambridge during the fourth quarter fuelled a 40% increase for this crime type in 2003. This series of late morning forced, rear-door entries into residences on Washburn, Foch and Matignon Roads was identified as a major pattern in late October. The pattern was eradicated on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 when warrants were issued on a 27-year old, Somerville woman. • Street robbery increased by 15 incidents in North Cambridge in 2003. Twelve of these incidents occurred between July and September. Street robberies in North Cambridge tend to cluster on Rindge Ave near Russell Field. Ten of the twenty-three robberies involved the use of a weapon. Analysis of arrest data for robberies in this area reveals the typical suspect as a 15 to 17 year old male who resides in the neighborhood. • Six of the seven drug arrests were for the possession of marijuana. • The major larceny from motor vehicle pattern identified in North Cambridge in 2003 involved a concentration of activity in the parking lots at 362/364 Rindge Ave in May and June. The majority of the incidents were being perpetrated on weekends with stereos from Honda Accords the main target. •Automobiles were the targets in 75% of the 106 acts of malicious destruction in North Cambridge in 2003. This type of criminal behavior includes slashing of tires, smashing of windows and pinstripping doors and roofs. • There were no auto theft patterns reported in this neighborhood in 2003. The total of thirty-two auto thefts in 2003 represents a 30-year low for this neighborhood.